

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### CARTEL INTRUSION INTO AMERICA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to The Washington Times, last December, five Mexican nationals armed with at least two AK-47 rifles were infiltrating the rugged desert—the American desert, that is. That's right, Mr. Speaker. Cartel soldiers were reportedly on our side of the border in Arizona “patrolling in single-file formation” with the goal of “intentionally and forcibly assaulting” Border Patrol agents.

They spotted and opened fire on four U.S. Border Patrol agents. Agent Brian Terry was murdered. Two cartel assault weapons found at the scene were connected to Operation Fast and Furious. Mr. Speaker, you recall that's the operation where our government facilitated smuggling weapons to Mexican drug cartels—the enemies of Mexico and the United States.

Military-type intrusions by the cartels will only increase. We need to defend our sovereignty and protect our Border Patrol and first responders. It's time to send military equipment coming back from Iraq to secure the southern border from the cartel soldiers. This veteran equipment includes Humvees, night-vision equipment, and more UAVs. Incidents like this will only continue to occur until Washington elites realize what happens in Mexico doesn't stay in Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

#### PAYROLL TAX CUT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, with our economy struggling and unemployment remaining unacceptably high, now is not the time to take more money out of the pockets of hardworking Americans.

The majority is opposing an extension of the payroll tax holiday, enacted earlier this year, that gave virtually all working Americans a much-needed tax cut. The payroll tax holiday cut the Social Security payroll taxes of over 160 million workers. Economic uncertainty both here in the U.S. and abroad makes this a dangerous time to eliminate an important tax cut that is

saving American families an average of \$1,000 a year. Failing to extend the payroll tax holiday will raise taxes on millions of Americans, taking over \$120 billion out of the pockets of consumers and out of the economy. In addition, failing to extend the unemployment insurance to those who have lost their jobs will take an additional \$30 billion out of the economy and rob over a million unemployed Americans of much-needed income and assistance.

Now is not the time to end these important tax cuts, and it is certainly not the time to pull the plug on the unemployed in our economy. I encourage my colleagues to pass both of these provisions as swiftly as possible.

□ 1210

#### CROHN'S AND COLITIS AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. CRENSHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are diseases that collectively are known as inflammatory bowel disease. They are painful; they are incurable; they attack the digestive system; and they affect about one out of every 200 people in our country.

A few weeks ago, Congressman JACKSON and I formed the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus to raise awareness in the Congress and to fight for additional Federal support, and Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week is part of that effort. Today we will file a House Resolution which will support this awareness week. And hopefully, as we work with the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, all Americans will use this week, this time to join in this fight to raise awareness to increase research and to find a cure for this debilitating disease.

#### CROHN'S AND COLITIS AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a resolution my friend Congressman CRENSHAW and I introduced today supporting the goals and ideals of Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week, which begins today and runs through December 7, 2011.

This resolution, which is identical to the Senate version adopted earlier this month, declares congressional support for Awareness Week, recognizes the patients living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and commends the dedication of health care professionals and biomedical researchers who care for these patients.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. Affecting an estimated 1.4 million Americans, including 140,000

children under the age of 18, IBD remains the most prominent factor in morbidity caused by digestive illness.

Again, thank you to my caucus co-chair for working with me on this important resolution, my colleagues who have joined as cosponsors, as well as the Crohn's and colitis patients and their families, medical providers, and researchers for their advocacy.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution and join the bipartisan Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, which advocates for enhanced patient care, treatment, and finding a cure for these debilitating diseases that impact both patients and their families.

#### OBAMA NEEDS TO FOCUS ON JOB CREATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2½ years, our Nation's unemployment rate has risen over 8 percent. The President continually develops policies that discourage and prohibit small businesses from creating jobs.

Just last month, the administration announced the delay of the Keystone XL pipeline, a project estimated to create over 300,000 jobs without costing taxpayers a dime. I was fortunate enough to visit Alberta, Canada in October and witnessed firsthand the Canadian oil sands and the positive impact that exploration has for new American jobs.

At the end of this legislative week, House Republicans will have passed 25 job-creation bills. Sadly, they are stalled in the Senate. With a growing debt of over \$15 trillion, it is absolutely necessary for Congress and the President to work together to promote job creation and ways to remove barriers to allow for small businesses to create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### RECOGNIZING POP WARNER LITTLE SCHOLARS

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pop Warner Little Scholars program, our Nation's oldest and largest youth football, cheer and dance organization.

Currently, more than 400,000 children participate in Pop Warner organizations that span 43 States, Scotland, Germany, Russia, Japan, and Mexico. The NFL Players Association estimates that Pop Warner has been the career starting point for 70 percent of its current athletes.

It has a long history of promoting structured athletics and instilling the

qualities of sportsmanship, hard work, and leadership in young athletes. It's the only national youth sports organization to require academic proficiency, and it annually awards more than \$110,000 in scholarships. It's also a leader in making youth sports safe, including its work on concussion-related injuries and a medical advisory board to remain proactive on player health and safety.

This Saturday, December 3, Pop Warner will kick off its Super Bowl and National Cheer and Dance Championship at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando. This week-long competition will feature participation from more than 12,000 athletes and will be broadcasted on ESPN3.

I want to extend our congratulations, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, to this excellent, well-recognized, and well-organized program for young people here in America on behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports.

#### STOP EXCESSIVE REGULATION NOW

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, one thing is certain: Excessive government regulations are hurting America's economy and strangling job creation.

Just this year, new regulations cost our economy almost \$100 billion, and this is just the cost of new regulations this year. The Small Business Administration estimates that regulations cost our economy approximately \$1.75 trillion annually. This is unacceptable.

With over 14 million Americans out of work, we can't afford these excessive government regulations. But instead of creating jobs, President Obama would rather create more regulations that kill jobs and burden small businesses.

Now, House Republicans have done the exact opposite. As part of the House Republican Plan for America's Job Creators, we're fighting to reduce the regulatory burdens to empower small businesses to create jobs. We've passed over 20 bills that will create much needed jobs right now.

President Obama and Senate Democrats need to work for job creation, not against it, because the people of eastern and southeastern Ohio and all Americans deserve better.

#### DELAYED PILOT FATIGUE RULE

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, despite what you might hear in this body, I believe that there are some regulations that we all can support.

The National Traffic Safety Board concluded that pilot fatigue contributed to the crash of Continental Air-

lines Flight 3407, which crashed into a house in my district, killing 50 innocent victims nearly 3 years ago. The legislation passed by this body in response to this crash mandated new pilot fatigue guidelines to be implemented by August 1 of this year. That date came and went. Then we were told November 22. Then we were told November 30. Those days have come and gone.

The families of these victims have worked tirelessly for a resolution to make sure a tragedy like this never happens again. The millions of Americans who fly our skies every year are counting on us for regulations to ensure their safety. Let's not let them down.

#### TEXAS VALLEY COASTAL BEND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM GOLD SEAL

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. In November, the VA outpatient clinic in Harlingen, Texas, earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval. This award recognizes facilities that comply with the Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in ambulatory care, behavioral health care, and home care.

There is no way we can adequately express our thanks to those who serve this country, but we must welcome them home and make sure they have access to the benefits and services that they have earned.

Our servicemen and -women deserve quality health care. The Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System has earned this distinction because they demonstrate a commitment to meeting the health care needs of all south Texas veterans.

My staff and I are passionate about helping veterans. South Texas is one of the most military and veteran-friendly places in the country, and I will work hard to ensure that the servicemembers and families receive the support that they deserve.

While south Texas is served by great outpatient facilities, we are in desperate need of a full-service VA hospital. I'm the cosponsor of two bills, H.R. 1318 and H.R. 837, that direct the VA to bring full-service, inpatient care facilities to south Texas.

#### POSTDEPLOYMENT COGNITIVE TESTING

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, one of my top priorities is to help our servicemembers with brain injuries. With posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury recognized as the signature injuries of the conflicts and wars in Iraq and Afghani-

stan, you would think the Defense Department would have a good system to catch the injuries. They do not.

Despite our vote, a bipartisan vote in 2008 to have pre- and postdeployment screenings, postdeployment screenings have not been required. Five hundred thousand soldiers with a predeployment cognitive test were given that test before they went to the battle. Coming out, only 3,000 tests were done postdeployment to actually compare results. We have nothing to compare. This is a disgrace and a disservice to our troops.

Both sides have agreed that we want something done. It has not been done in violation of the law. The Pascrell-Platts-Andrews-Cole-Ortiz-Wilson-Coffman amendment passed in the House Defense authorization bill to address this, but it was not included in the final bill. That's what we're trying to do this year.

□ 1220

#### PASS THESE JOBS BILLS

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are rightfully fed up. President Obama has managed to create an economy where the only things that are growing are power in Washington, debt for our children and grandchildren, a lack of confidence for job creators, and the number of unemployed Americans.

When it comes to creating an environment to help the private sector create jobs, the difference between House Republicans and Senate Democrats is the difference between action and inaction.

This year, under the House Republicans' Plan for America's Job Creators, we have passed more than 25 pro-growth job bills. These bipartisan bills are aimed at restoring the freedom and confidence of job creators by breaking down the barriers preventing them from growing and creating badly needed jobs. Yet 21 of these bipartisan House-passed job bills are stuck in the Senate because Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID continues to put politics before jobs.

It's time for the Senate Democrat leadership to join our fight for America and put them back to work. Pass these jobs bills.

#### PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many struggling families in Massachusetts who simply don't know how they will make ends meet if Congress does not pass an extension of unemployment benefits before January 1.

From Lowell: I am a 58-year-old man that has been unemployed for 2 years